

not a fairy story but a statement of unpleasant fact brought out by Prof. Hey Groves, in opening a recent discussion at the Royal Society of London on the medico-legal aspects of fractures. The "Tyndall v. Alcock" case, as related above, has considerably upset the profession, and there is no doubt that more and more practitioners are refusing to have anything to do with fracture cases. As Prof. Hey Groves said, "Nothing could be more plain than that in the ordinary meaning of the term there was never a less negligently treated case than that of Phyllis Tyndall by Dr. Alcock." It is difficult to see what can be done in the present state of the law. It is suggested that a doctor asked to attend an accident case should obtain a declaration indemnifying him in case his treatment does not produce a good result. Further, steps ought to be taken to prevent any medical man from giving evidence against a colleague without some preliminary consultation, and it is also suggested that a medical expert should be appointed to act as assessor to the judge in High Court cases, just as a medical referee assists the county court judge in cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Whether these suggestions will result in any action being taken is uncertain, but something will have to be done or no one will have anything to do with fractures.

Two men died last month who were probably very little known to the profession as a whole, and yet each of them played a very important part in medical life and influenced directly and indirectly many practitioners. Sir Hugh Anderson, Master of Gonville and Caius College,

Cambridge, was possessed of an acute scientific intellect and was a brilliant teacher. After doing his hospital work in London as a student, he returned to the research laboratories at Cambridge, and for some years did valuable work which earned for him the F.R.S. Then administrative duties attracted him and he retired, as it were, into the background as far as scientific medicine was concerned. Ever increasing public duties claimed him, and it has been said that "there is hardly any great project that has come to fruition in Cambridge for many years but he has been its most inspiring forwarder." The development and growth of the Cambridge Medical School during the last quarter of a century took place under Sir Hugh Anderson's careful guidance and he inspired a succession of men to work in various fields of medicine. The other loss which the profession has sustained was by the death of Mr. Edmund White, probably the greatest pharmacist of his day and generation. From his earliest days he strove to raise the standard of pharmacists in every way, insisting on a good preliminary education and the abolition of all "cramming" for the final examination. He was President of the Pharmaceutical Society during the difficult war years, and was the representative of the Society on the Commission for the production of the British Pharmacopœia. He believed strongly that pharmacy is the handmaid of medicine, and his life-work has gone far to put the pharmacy of this country in the splendid position it holds to-day.

ALAN MONCRIEFF

December, 1928.

Medical Legislation

THE PROPRIETARY AND PATENT MEDICINE ACT AND IMPROPER MEDICINES

By L. P. TEEVENS

"The sale of all secret formulæ non-pharmacopœial medicinal preparations in Canada is regulated by *The Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act*. This law legalizes the sale of such remedies only upon condition that the quantities of the potent drugs used in their manufacture are within the limitations set by an Advisory Board, and that these quantities are printed on the labels and wrappers used in connection with the medicine and, further, that no false, misleading or exaggerated claims or representations of a *cure* for any disease are made on the labels and wrappers, or in any other manner respecting the article.

In consequence of these restrictions the Department has ruled that no medicine be

accepted for registration under this Act which is directed to be used for any of the following ailments, for the reason that eminent medical authorities hold that such remedies should be administered only under skilled supervision, and that recommendations for their indiscriminate use by the laity are false, misleading and attended with grave danger to health and life, in that specific treatment may be delayed by their use until alarming symptoms have developed, and the disease has reached a hopeless stage:

Goitre; gallstones, kidney stones, bladder stones; high blood pressure; pneumonia; pleurisy; tuberculosis (lupus); scarlet fever; diphtheria; typhoid fever; tumours; cancer; ruptures; obesity; diabetes; Bright's disease; arteriosclerosis; venereal diseases; appendicitis; infantile paralysis; spinal meningitis; erysipelas; also the following nostrums; specifics; abortifacients; for producing flesh; remedies for re-

storing sexual virility; radium activity remedies; earth packs containing medicinal ingredients.

Of the diseases above enumerated cancer may be said to-day to be the outstanding dreaded disease of the world. Not the slightest evidence which would bear the test of scientific investigation has, as far as we know, been produced anywhere to show that this disease is amenable to medicinal treatment, and one can hardly imagine anything more deplorable or pitiable than the exploitation of the hopes and fears of sufferers in order to enhance the sale of a product which the whole scientific world would pronounce as worthless.

There is no sadder spectacle than the mental anguish of the one who has not been disillusioned until it is too late. Time is the great factor in the treatment of cancer; it is precious; of vital importance; a matter of life and death. Patients who discover the disease in its early stages and resort promptly to skilled treatment have a chance to get well, but if they delay in order to find and try an advertised remedy, or to see if the trouble will disappear itself, the disease takes such a hold upon them that its eradication becomes impossible.

The Department is making an earnest effort to remove from the Canadian market all medicinal preparations represented for cancer. Recently two vendors of proprietary medicines for the treatment of cancer have been prosecuted in Toronto and the Department has been successful in securing convictions in each case."—(Abstract from Current Public Health Literature, Ottawa, Nov. 1928, 21).

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR NARCOTICS

The attention of medical men throughout the Dominion is specially directed to this letter, which has been passed to the *Journal* for publication. The matter is of great importance. (Ed.)

DR. T. C. ROUTLEY,
184 College St.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:—

As you are aware prescriptions written by a physician for narcotics should be written in ink, signed with his full name (not initialled) and dated.

It has been repeatedly brought to my attention the embarrassing situation which is created when prescriptions are not signed, because the law emphatically states that such must be done before the prescription may be dispensed. A druggist breaking this clause of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act is liable to a heavy fine.

In order to bring this forcibly to the attention of the physicians of the province, the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, at its last meeting, instructed me to respectfully seek your co-operation in assisting the druggist to carry out the provisions of the Act.

We should be pleased to hear from you as to any suggestions you think best to bring the matter to the notice of the physicians.

Yours truly,

(Signed) J. F. ROBERTS,
Registrar-Treasurer.

Toronto, Dec. 12, 1928.

Association Notes

THE ANNUAL MEETING, MONTREAL

June 17-18-19-20- and 21

This announcement is the first of a series which will appear in the *Journal* each month between this and the date of meeting.

Members are requested to preserve these pages for future reference.

GENERAL PLAN OF MEETING

Monday, June 17.

Meetings of Council: forenoon and afternoon.
Official Luncheon and Dinner.

Tuesday, June 18.

Meetings of Council: forenoon and afternoon.
Official Luncheon and Dinner.

Golf Tournament: "The Ontario Cup."

Evening: Annual Meeting, Province of Quebec Medical Association. Reception of reports of Secretary, of Treasurer, and of Standing Committees. Election of Officers.

Wednesday, June 19.

Forenoon, 9-12. Meetings of Sections.

Afternoon, 2-4. General sessions, the French and English running concurrently.

Evening: Annual Dinner and Dance.

Presentation of the Golf Trophies.

Thursday, June 20.

Forenoon, 9-12. Meetings of Sections.

Afternoon, 2-4. General sessions, French and English.

Evening: Inauguration of the "Osler Oration."

Friday, June 21.

Forenoon, 9-12. Meetings of Sections.

Afternoon, 2-4. General Sessions, French and English.

Evening: Alumni Dinners.

Exhibits: Scientific; Historic and Artistic; Commercial.